

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Sheet Metal Factory at Borsodnádásd	DATE DISTR.	12 August 1953
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Sheet Metal Factory was located in a depression among the Borsod hills outside of the town of Borsodnádásd [4808N-2015E], which is about 16 km. south of Ozd [4813N-2018E]. Because of the hilly terrain surrounding the factory, there was hardly any possibility of expanding it. The factory occupied an area of 100 x 400 m., and within the compound were the following:
  - a. Main Workshop
  - b. Warehouse for Finished Products
  - c. Storage Building for Auxiliary Materials
  - d. Administration Building
  - e. House of Culture and Factory Garages
  - f. Factory Yard
2. The Main Workshop was a one-story building, 35 x 200 m. It consisted of two parts. In the front part were 12 hot-milling twin cylinders and three or four glowing furnaces. In the rear part of the workshop there were tempering furnaces. There were also two electric furnaces, each of one ton capacity.
3. The Warehouse for Finished Products was located north of the Main Workshop. It occupied an area 40 x 60 m. This building was usually empty because of the great demand for finished products. The trucks

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from enterprises using the plates manufactured in the factory transported them right from the loading ramp, and often waited in the yard for plates to be finished. Thus there was no necessity for storing the finished products. This Warehouse was headed by (fnu) CSOMA, 25X1A under the direction of the Materials and Goods Distribution Division of the Foundries and Machine Industries Ministry

4. On the left-hand side of the Main Workshop, facing the entrance, was a new two-story building 40 x 20 m. for storing auxiliary materials. Factory offices were located on the second floor of this building.
5. On the right-hand side, near the entrance to the factory, was a building, 15 x 30 m., in which were located the factory administration offices, the secretary's office, and the office of the technical management of the factory.
6. On the square facing the factory were the House of Culture and the factory garages.
7. Along the road leading from the factory to the town there were long rows of living quarters for factory officials and workers. These buildings had been constructed before World War II.
8. In the yard of the factory large quantities of basic materials were kept in the open. Part of the yard was reserved for cranes.
9. The factory had 12 hot-milling twin cylinders, three or four glowing furnaces, and two electric furnaces of one ton capacity each. The cylinders could not be produced in Hungary because of the lack of reverberatory furnaces. Until 1950 the cylinders were imported from West Germany. The last shipment of 12 cylinders from West Germany in 1950 was held up by US authorities in Linz and later returned to West German enterprises. As a result of this, sheet metal production fell off in the Borsodnadasd Sheet Metal Factory. In order to remedy the situation the Hungarian Government ordered cylinders from Poland. Of the five cylinders delivered by Poland in 1951, two cracked after a few hours of use and the remaining three cracked within two months. The damage amounted to more than one million forints. In contrast to this, West German cylinders had lasted more than one year.
10. Because of the poor quality of Polish cylinders, in 1951 an agreement was made with the Soviet Union for the purchase of cylinders for 1952. The import of cylinders was managed by the state trading agency METALIMPEX (Magyar Acelipari Kuekereskedelmi Vallalat - Hungarian Foreign Trade Enterprise for Steel Industry). But the Soviet cylinders were no better than the Polish.
11. The Ozd Metallurgical Works supplied the Borsodnadasd Sheet Metal Factory with ingots and blocks of steel necessary for the production of sheet metal. It also supplied the factory with iron needed by the electric furnaces. However the work of these furnaces was frequently interrupted for several hours or even several days because of delay in delivery of iron. The Ozd Works also supplied the factory, as well as the municipality of Borsodnadasd, with electric power. The factory was connected with the Ozd Works by a narrow-gauge railroad track. The necessary coal was obtained at the site of the factory, where it was transported on conveyor belts from the mine.
12. This was the only fine sheet milling factory in Hungary. The sheet metal produced was 0.1 - 3 mm. thick, the maximum size 2 x 3 meters. It was black, polished, tinned, or galvanized. All of Hungarian industry was dependent on this factory for fine metal sheet, which had manifold uses, from radio condensers to automobile bodies.

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13. After being rolled to the desired thickness, the metal sheet was cut on the cutting machines to required size, piled up, and transported to the tinning and galvanizing sections. The hot milling consisted in milling ingots and steel blocks at 800 degrees C. During this process the cylinders had a temperature of 300 degrees C. Sheet metal scrap left over after cutting was pressed by machines into bundles of 100 kg. and sold back to the Ozd Metallurgical Works for re-use.
14. The factory employed 1,300 - 1,500 workers (women worked only in offices), and operated in three shifts. The workshop was badly ventilated. It was full of smoke and gases from the hot metal, and the temperature was 50 - 60 degrees C. The work tempo was exhausting because the workers were constantly driven to produce more in order to fulfill the high norms. This speed actually caused frequent stoppage of work because of cracking cylinders. The workers had to make up for the time lost through breakdowns.
15. In March 1952 (fnu) TOTTH was director of the factory. He was about 40 years old, of medium build, slender, bald, with blue eyes and a narrow face. He was a laborer in the Ozd Metallurgical Works before he was appointed director of the Borsodnadasd Sheet Metal Factory in the Summer of 1951. For several months previous to his appointment there had been no director, and the factory was managed during that period by a senior technical specialist.

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